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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 31 Jul 53

SUBJECT NKVD Screening Camp No. 2, Kizel

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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DATE OF IN

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The NKVD Screening Camp ('Spetsproverochnyy lager') No. 2, [REDACTED] was located about three kilometers northeast of Kizel 5903N-5740E. [REDACTED] this camp existed before World War II. [REDACTED] 25X1

Covering an area of [REDACTED] 25X1 500 - 700 m. by 500 - 700 m., it had four one-story barracks measuring approximately 150 x 15 m. Approximately 2,500 inmates, all male and mostly in their 30's, slept in beds which were arranged in three tiers about 70 cm. apart. Surrounding the entire camp area was a wooden fence about 2.5 m. high topped by 5 - 6 strands of barbed wire. A forbidden zone, six or seven meters wide, lay inside this fence and was partitioned off by another low wooden fence. Spaced at intervals of about 150 m. were watch towers manned by armed guards. A fifth building, measuring about 100 x 15 m., housed the administrative offices, the dispensary, dining rooms, [REDACTED] 25X1

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2. At the head of the camp was a Tartar, an NKVD senior lieutenant. Assisting him in the administration of the camp were approximately 10 NKVD enlisted men. Two doctors, a Jewish married couple, were in charge of the medical section; assisting them were a number of feldshers and several nurses. Some inmates, who were also doctors, assisted in medical care. As there was no hospital located within the camp, inmates needing hospitalization were sent to one a few kilometers distant.
3. Most of the inmates were Ukrainian; there were lesser numbers of Russians and no national minority groups (natsmeny). Although many prisoners were suspected of collaboration with the Germans, such as those who had been heads of villages and members of police under the Germans, there were also many others who had been taken into custody by the NKVD in the wake of the advancing Red Army and sent to screening camps.

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The inmates were then divided into companies of 100; one man was selected as the leader of a company. All inmates received cast-off clothing, work clothes, and some kind of coveralls, all of cotton manufacture.

4. Practically all the inmates worked eight hours a day six days a week in anthracite coal mines located about one kilometer from the camp. They marched to and from the camp under armed guard. All the inmates working in the mines received 100 rubles per month. They were told that pay was so low because the administration of the mine paid for all the camp expenses. For over-fulfilling the daily norms the inmates received coupons which entitled them to small amounts of fat. This fat was obtained in Kizel, where the inmates were taken from time to time under escort. On government holidays raffles were held and inmates could win such prizes as trousers, shirts, and, very frequently, women's dresses. These prizes, particularly the dresses, were given to miners who were not inmates for sale in town. Although this practice was forbidden, little was done officially to stop it. As indicated above, inmates worked side by side with free miners from the surrounding area. These free miners, of course, received considerably more pay than 100 rubles per month.
5. Life in the camp was quite dull and boring. Every barracks had a Red Corner (Krasnyy ugolok) where newspapers, magazines, and a very limited number of books were available. Some few chess and checker sets were also at the disposal of the inmates. [redacted] no passes were ever issued, and all trips to town were made in large groups and under escort. The only restriction to letter writing was that all letters were to be censored by the commander and his staff. Most inmates, however, sent and received letters surreptitiously via the free miners with whom they worked.

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[redacted] The mess hall was busy 24 hours a day feeding inmates of the three different shifts.

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Bread was issued once a day, 1,200 g. to those working in the mines and 700 g. to those who worked on the surface. For breakfast [redacted] 25X1 usually received soup, containing some US canned meat, and tea. Lunch consisted of soup with US canned meat, gruel, and potatoes. For supper [redacted] soup, gruel, potatoes, and tea. A very small amount of sugar was issued once a week. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays a separate meat dish was served once a day. There was one instance in which about 1,000 inmates became ill as a result of food poisoning which was traced to pickled mushrooms. Fifteen doctors arrived and administered emetics; some of the inmates received inoculations, and no food was given them for two days. Most of the inmates who smoked used a cheap grade of tobacco (makhorka). Vodka could be purchased in Kizel or at the mines, but none was permitted to be taken into camp. Many of the inmates were very disgruntled and openly criticized the regime and STALIN. Some were informed upon and taken away, but no one could find out where. All inmates were taken once a week to the public baths in Kizel.

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[redacted] Apparently there was no systematic interrogation schedule, because some inmates were interrogated soon after arrival and others many months after arrival. Interrogations were always conducted during the night. [redacted]

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body. From time to time some people would disappear shortly after an interrogation, apparently to concentration camps. [redacted]

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[redacted] Most of the people remained in camp about two years, and some for as long as three or four years. [redacted]

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